LA CHAÎNE

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TOTAL NADA in MEXICO

We caught up with Boris, singer in local spanish-language punk band TOTAL NADA about the band's recent trip down to México and all the sick bands they got to play alongside at the Ciudad Maldita fest!

Going to México to play Ciudad Maldita was incredibly amazing. The México city punk scene was very welcoming to TOTAL NADA. Only the best memories, crazy shows, insanely good bands, tasty food, and fun under the sun.

Our first show was a Friday night aftershow, we played with NARCOESTADO and MESS, both locals and with a big follow up. NARCOESTADO was David Rata's (who is now based in the US) recording project that hasn't played a lot in México and is definitely a crowd favourite—truly a spanish language punk modern classic. MESS are from Guadalajara and play Oi! revival, they have played in Europe and are coming to the Canadian west coast later this year. The show was at the Malaldea, a vegan resto by day and punk venue by night. Probably there were 150 people crowded in a 60 sq feet spot. We were first on the bill, and played around 1:30 am. As soon as we played our first song we could feel a great response in level of intensity and even some sing alongs. We had some technical issues, but managed to play a pretty memorable set, and a perfect ice-breaker of what the mexican crowd was gonna be.

Saturday's main show ended up being cancelled by the cerdos and some bands were added to the Sunday main show, which we were playing. This was an insanely stacked bill. EXT-A kicked the night off with their moden d-beat. Followed by DESHUESADERO, a crust band that I remembered seeing in Colombia probably in 2015. Then came RESPLANDOR, another newish band with solid friends including Adrian and Branny who housed us during the fest. Then followed by our labelmates ELECTRIKA—I really loved seeing them and would recommend folks to check them out. Before us, ICD10 from Philly played, and they completely blew my mind, they set the right energy before it was our turn to hit the stage.

Then it was us in the stage, probably at 8:30 pm. This show was very memorable, I started the set by singing in the crowd in front of the stage, and mid-set I had to climb into the stage because by this point the venue was already full—probably 250-300 people were in there. We had prepared a longer set, mixing the songs from our first EP, and some songs from the second one which we started recording in Dec 2022. I remembered seeing a lot of people jumping, crowdsurfing and singing along, when we were playing our last song I realized I was on the ground with people all over me hugging me and screaming, this was truly surreal.

After us, it was LUMPEN from Barcelona, who had to deal with some immigration issues coming into México, their lead singer and bass player where sent back to Spain because of some bullshit reasons—they managed to fly back and were supposed to play the night before in the show that was shut down by the cops. They play UK82 influenced HC punk, and they were really, really good. After that, MURO was playing, and well, I don't have to describe them beyond saying they're a powerhouse of a band. Then followed another performance of NARCOESTADO to close the main show. After that we went to the aftershow, where THE POISONING from California were playing, along with PRIMER REGIMEN and APARA. All that in a single day, probably from 4 pm to 4 am, all really awesome bands.

Going to México was a crazy humbling experience, playing with a bunch of old friends, some of which I haven't seen in years, also meeting the nicest people and sharing with them. Playing to a crowd who speaks your mother language and who understand what you are saying is nothing to take for granted. Shout out to the Mexico city punk scene for their hospitality, and showing us their scene—really looking forward to later on this year, where if everything goes well as planned, we might have EXT-A, RESPLANDOR, and ELECTRIKA touring around here.

Thanks again to Boris for this account!
Photos by Raul_D_MG